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AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

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Editorial.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.

The Commissioners appointed by the Governors of this and other States to investigate the cattle disease now prevailing, met in Albany, on the 9th inst. The following Commissioners were present: From New York—General Patrick, Doctors Moreau Morris and Lewis F. Allen. Massachusetts—Dr. E. F. Thayer and Levi Stockbridge. Connecticut—E. H. Hyde, T. S. Gold, and H. L. Stewart. Rhode Island—Dr. E. M. Snow, Samuel W. Church and Edwin Darling. Maine—G. L. Goodall. Dr. Thayer was appointed chairman, and Mr. Stockbridge secretary.

On a full comparison of notes among the Commissioners they were unanimously of the opinion that the disease now prevailing among the cattle was easily prevented, provided that prompt sanitary and restrictive measures were adopted. The following prescription for daily disinfection of the cattle yards was presented by Dr. Morris, and received the approval of the Commissioners.

Ten pounds of copperas, 60 gallons of water, and one-half gallon of 30 per cent. carbolic acid; total expense twenty-five cents per barrel for the preparation. The solution must be stronger if it is to be applied only twice a week, and the composition will accordingly be thus: Ten pounds of copperas, 20 gallons of water and one-half gallon of 30 per cent carbolic acid.

The following resolutions by Gov. Seymour were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That an appeal be made to the Legislature of the State of New York, to pass such laws as are needed to protect the lives and health of its citizens from such diseases as are now prevalent among cattle, which are driven to market and used upon the farms of this State; and also that all farmers' clubs and other agricultural associations be requested to aid in the effort to avert the evils with which they may be threatened.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to publish the best remedies for the care of animals afflicted by contagious or infectious diseases, and their proper treatment when attacked by such complaints.

A committee of three was appointed by the chair, viz., Dr. Morris of New York, Dr. Snow of Rhode Island, and E. H. Hyde of Connecticut, to draft a memorial to the Legislature, asking for such legislation as would empower the Commissioners from this State to take prompt and efficient measures to prevent the spread of this or any other disease which may hereafter break out among the cattle in this State.

The Committee subsequently reported a petition to the Legislature now in session, in accordance with the resolution, which was signed by all the Commissioners present, and was placed in the hands of the Chairman of the Committee on agriculture, who will, as soon as possible bring the subject to the attention of the Legislature.

A gentleman was present (who has the care of the cattle yards at West Albany) and testified to some important facts, one of which was that he purchased nineteen cows, which were not giving milk, and sent them to his brother's farm. Soon after they were sick and communicated the disease to the whole herd, consisting of about one hundred head.

A cow with a calf by her side remaining unsold, was allowed to roam about the yards for some weeks, the calf was sent away, apparently in perfect health, and at that time, was also the cow; it was thought that perhaps the propagation of the disease was ended, but within a few days shows having contracted the disease, and is now sick.

Nearly the entire day was occupied in the discussion of the subject by the Commissioner, Ex-Governor Seymour and Hon. J. Stanton Gould.

A general unanimity of opinion existed in relation to the importance of preventive measures being adopted, and of the necessity of the enactment of laws by the Legislature of the State of New York, whereby the authorities can act promptly and efficiently.

SOCIAL GATHERING.

The second social gathering of the past and present members of the State Board of Agriculture took place at the United States Hotel on the evening of the 31st of Jan., during the annual business session of the Board. The crowded condition of our columns has prevented an earlier notice of this interesting reunion. The idea of this gathering was, if we mistake not, suggested by the success of the Berkshire Farmer's Festival, which has come to be quite an institution among the farmers living beyond the Green Mountain range. The first of the kind held by the past and present members of the Board took place a year ago and proved to be so pleasant for a large number of people that it was thought desirable to repeat it, and a large number of past members and their ladies earnestly seconded the movement.

Dr. Loring was requested to preside, and the Rev. Mr. Murray of Park St. church acted as chaplain. At 5 o'clock, the company to the number of over eighty, sat down to dinner prepared in the best manner the United States is capable of.

After discussing the subject to the satisfaction of the company, the chairman made one of his happy efforts at opening the intellectual entertainment of the occasion. He was followed by Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, Hon. Horace H. Coolidge, President of the Senate, Hon. Harvey Jewell, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rev. W. H. Murray of Park St. church, Boston, Hon. Charles G. Davis of Plymouth, Hon. Velorous Taft of Upton, Hon. Paul A. Chadbourne, President William S. Clark, Capt. John B. Moore, of Concord, Theodore C. Hurd, Esq., of Framingham, Geo. B. Brown Esq., of Framingham, J. F. C. Hyde of Newton and others, till the company adjourned to the parlors. It was an enjoyable "sociable" and the ladies entered heartily into the spirit of it.

THE BIG TREE.

Most of the readers of the *Ploughman* are aware that a section of one of the great trees of Calaveras County, California, has been on exhibition in Boston for some days, and that it has excited a great deal of attention. This section was cut off from what is called the "Old Original" Tree that was cut down in 1853. We had the pleasure of visiting it last June, where it fell and now lies.

The stump is smoothed off and is covered over with a kind of arbor or summer house, and is used for a place of gathering for social parties who visit the grove, and we were told on the spot that thirty-two people had danced upon it with plenty of room to spare for the musicians. This tree was ninety-two feet in circumference and over three hundred feet high by actual measurement. Five men worked twenty-five days, using large augurs to bring it down, and it is said that when wholly severed from its trunk it stood a good while as if reluctant to give up its hold upon the earth.

A part of the trunk lies near the stump, and it is twenty-five feet in diameter, and twenty feet long. At the end of that section still lies the immense trunk as it fell, measuring three hundred and two feet from the base to the extremity. Upon this is situated a spacious bar-room, the inevitable accompaniment of western life, and also a ten pin alley, eighty-one feet long and with ample space for two alley beds side by side.

At the recent meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, Prof. Agassiz made an interesting statement in regard to this and other trees in the group, beginning with the assurance that the annular rings presented on a section of such a tree were sure and reliable indications of the age. It is perfectly certain that one layer only is made annually, so that the number of layers gives the age of the tree, as for a period of three hundred years, the growth was more rapid and the layers thicker. During the next three hundred years, the growth was less rapid and so on. The exact increase in diameter during the different ages of its growth, was carefully measured and explained by Prof. Agassiz, and it is a curious fact that the increase was greatest upon the southern side, or the side exposed to the sun. In a certain period ninety-four inches of growth was made on the southern side, while only seventy-nine inches appeared in the same period on the north side.

This was a young tree. After carefully counting and measuring, it was found to be only 1210 years old.

There are trees in the grove much older than this. One in particular to which he alluded, was 3400 years old. It was a big tree during the Persian war. It was larger than this tree in the time of Charlemagne. The Big Tree proper was as large as this in the days of Solomon.

We measured with a line, which we still keep as a memento of the visit, a tree called "The Mother of the Forest," about a foot from the ground, and the line is twenty-seven yards long or eighty-one feet in circumference without the bark, which was entirely stripped off for one hundred and sixteen feet high to take to the London exhibition. It seems like an act of sacrilege, and if we had owned the magnificent tree it never should have been permitted. The tree is, of course, dead, and the top limbs are beginning to fall. The "Mother" is three hundred and twenty-seven feet high. The bark where taken off was eighteen inches thick.

It is extremely difficult at first sight, to realize the immense size of these gigantic trees. A few hours among them only leads the mind to comprehend them in all their grandeur.

Let those who have an opportunity, while the section remains here, not fail to pay it a visit. It is certainly no humbug, but a product of nature that is well worth seeing.

CARBOLIC ACID.

We are happy to be able to announce that the cattle commissioners have purchased about sixty barrels of carbolic acid, of known quality, of a manufacturer of New York. Arrangements will soon be made with a reliable party in Boston whereby as certain towns, and individuals wishing to use it to disinfect their barns and yards, can get it at the cost price. This will be a great accommodation to the community, and the expense will be very light, to say nothing of the advantage of getting an article the exact quality of which is known.

We consider carbolic acid as a very important article for every farmer to keep on his premises, whether he has been troubled with the cattle disease or not, since it is such a perfect disinfectant and deodoriser, that it may be used to sprinkle the stalls, the privies and other places where putrifying animal or vegetable substances, are giving off, and so wasting, certain gases that are valuable as fertilizers.

DISEASES OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

After a long interval we are happy to resume the series of papers on the common diseases of our domestic animals by Dr. D. D. Slade.

We would state that this gentleman has prepared a lecture under the auspices of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which he would be pleased to deliver before Country Lyceums, Farmer's Clubs &c, wherever sufficient interest would be taken in the matter. Address Chestnut Hill, Mass.

☞ A good farmer will never be satisfied with his farming until he is confident his land grows better every year.

PEACHES IN WINTER.

Lieut. Gov. Tucker and the members of the Executive Council were invited a few days ago, to visit the peach and flower houses of Capt. O. S. Gibbs, of West Newton. Though not the first time we have visited the establishment, we accepted a kind invitation to join the excursion, and were well paid in the pleasure and instruction which such a visit seldom fails to afford. Capt. Gibbs is a success. He was a success as a whaler, and now he is an equal success as a cultivator of fruit, and he has shown what a field of pleasure and profit lies open to enterprise in this direction.

We were struck, every one who saw the results of a little ingenuity and enterprise, was struck with the simplicity and fitness of the appliances, and with the perfect success which seems to attend them. The peach house is fifty feet long by twenty wide, heated when necessary by hot water and steam with a simple apparatus costing but $112, made by Nason, of the late firm of Walworth & Nason, with a consumption of only seven tons of coal. The roof is glass, the chief item of expense, and that not large. This house is filled at the present time with peach trees in pots, most of them perfectly covered with blossoms, though some had just passed the blossom, and had "set" an abundance of fruit. One or two late Crawford's were quite loaded with flowers in full perfection. These trees are three years old from the bud, and bore a large crop last May and June which sold, those not wanted by the family, at a large price. They stood out through the summer requiring only an occasional watering. In November they were removed to the cellar for a short "nap" and after about thirty days rest were placed in the peach house about the first of January when the mild heat was started up, and for ten days past the whole have presented one mass of flowers quite gorgeous to behold. An apple tree, also in a wooden tub, was in full blossom, and a long row of strawberries lined the sides without interfering with the peaches. A lemon tree in full bearing and many grapes now starting into leaf occupied the borders and served to give variety.

To make sure of fructification in the absence of wind and insects, Mr. Gibbs goes over his trees when in blossom, with a fine camel's hair brush distributing the pollen, a process which occupies but little time, and is attended with complete success. The only fertilizer used for all the plants in this house, and all the flowers in use [illegible] Devon blood, and the Hamburg grape house is that made by one good sized long wooled Leicester sheep. This is applied in a liquid form about once a week. And we should like to see a sheep turned to better account than that. No guano or other home made or artificial fertilizer is required.

In May the size of the peaches will have been attained, when the plants are taken out of the house and ripen up in the sunlight and air, and they get a splendid color and the flavor of out of door peaches. It is expected that they will be ripe and ready to gather towards the end of May or in June when they command a fabulous price. As soon as the peaches leave the house grapes run up and form a graceful arbor under the roof of the house where they bask in the warm sun under the glass. The grapes will not be allowed to make such an amount of foliage as to shade the peaches while the latter remain in the peach house, but when they are removed the grapes have abundance of room.

We could not help thinking that many a farmer, who is situated within twenty or thirty miles of a market, might "go and do likewise." The expense of structures is not great, and the amount of labor slight. Mr. Gibbs keeps only one lad to look after the fire and do the rough work. The rest he does himself at odd hours and as a matter of pleasure. He does not run it to make money, but for his own gratification as well; but any one taking hold of it as a matter of business could make it pay "hand over fist."

Capt. Gibbs seems to think the secret of his great success and easy triumph is that pet lamb. It is a lamb that we have "had an eye on" for two or three years. She sheared eleven pounds of wool last year that sold for ninety-two cents a pound, being over twelve inches long and of a remarkable fine and beautiful staple, and about the same we believe year before last, besides furnishing all the fertilizing material for the whole establishment, flower, grape, and peach houses, and a large number of fruit trees in the open air. If anybody has a lamb that accomplishes more for her owner in the course of the year we should like to know it.

All the party were delighted with the visit, and felt abundantly paid by the amount of gratification and instruction derived from it.

IMPORTANCE OF THE DAIRY INTEREST.

The dairy interest of the United States is becoming of vast importance. The present product of cheese is supposed to be 300,000,000 pounds, which, at 15 cents per pound, amounts to $45,000,000; and of butter 575,000,000 pounds, which, at 25 cents per pound, amounts to $145,750,000; with 100,000,000 gallons of milk sold in cities and towns, and 60,000,000 gallons consumed in families where produced, worth $26,000,000; making together a dairy product of $216,750,000.

But if we examine this great interest in detail, we shall be surprised that the product is so small. The number of cows now is not probably less than 9,000,000 (the number in 1860 was 8,728,862.) If we suppose 5,000,000 cows devoted to the production of butter, it would give only 115 pounds per cow; and 1,500,000 cows devoted to the production of cheese, only 200 pounds per cow; 700,000 cows for the production of milk consumed in the cities and in the families of producers; leaving 1,800,000 cows in the western and south western States devoted simply to raising stock.

It will be seen that the product of butter and cheese is not more than half what it should be with proper attention to breeding and feeding. In proof of this, we have only to cite the report of the First Collins cheese factory of Erie County, N. Y., for 1869, where the average from 720 cows was 420 pounds per cow; and 200 to 300 pounds of butter is a common yield for good, well fed milch cows. This renders it evident that the dairy interest requires a radical improvement; that instead of producing $216,750,000, it should pour a golden stream of $500,000,000 into the farmer's treasury.

CABBAGE AS A FOOD FOR MILCH COWS.

I have had a little experience in this line, and am greatly pleased with the result. They come into feeding for milch cows after corn fodder has been killed by the frost, and at a season of scarcity of other green food; their value as a milk producing feed, I think, stands fully equal to any other green food I have ever fed, and the product that can be grown upon an acre is very large. Probably the most difficult part is the storage for winter use. To get the most benefit with the least labor in storing and feeding, is the object, (or should be) of those who raise any crop after it is grown. For I think the feeding should be begun as soon as the green corn is injured by the frost; that is usually the last of September or the first of October, the milch cows are then carried on with a good flow of milk, which is better than to let them fall away, and then try to bring them back by high feeding. I think that in changing feed we should begin moderately, and increase as the animal gets used to the feed, to the full amount desired to be fed; then keep on steadily with that till another change is desirable, or if necessary must be made. Variety is of great benefit for all farm stock, more so than at first appears. The feeding of cabbages in connection with hay and meal, as proposed by a subscriber, will be found very beneficial.

GET LEATHER BITS.

One of the most cruel things done, is putting hard, frozen iron bits into a horse's mouth. It is not only painful, but a dangerous act. Thus a horse's mouth becomes frozen by the cold iron several times a day put into it; each time causing these freezings to go deeper and deeper, to end at last in extensive ulceration. Thinking and humane people avoid this by first warming the bits; but this is much trouble, and sometimes impossible, as in night work, like staging and physician's work. Now all this is avoided by getting leather bits so made that no metal substance can touch the flesh. Don't fail to try it.—*Chillicothe Tribune.*

For the Massachusetts Ploughman.

"WARRINGTON" AND HIS "CONTAGION DOGMA."

BY PROF. LEVI STOCKBRIDGE,

Of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

To MR. "WARRINGTON":—*Dear Sir:* I have read with pleasure your "contagion dogma" in the *Republican* of last Friday. Its general tenor is just what would be expected from your standpoint; in fact the whole thing is so strikingly characteristic, that it needs only the tinkling music of your voice to make one forget the present, and live again in the "days of old Lang Syne." Your "dogma" proves clearly, that you are versed in diseases of the "cloven foot," are acquainted with epizootic aphthæ, "pip in hens," and not ignorant on the subject of "unwholesome veal." You are familiar with "hog cholera" and your "dogma" explains all the mysteries of trichinæ. It kills all "virus," settles all doubts on all sort of subjects, and without "common sense" or "carbolic acid" has restored "order" to the country from "Dan to Beersheba," from "Provincetown to Sheffield," from Attleboro to Seekonk and from Seekonk to Fairhaven, which was "panic stricken by all the Stockbridge's of all the ages." "It is a wonderful dogma," and could never have been conceived, but by a most comprehensive mind. It shows that you retain and have strengthened your original love of agriculturists, and of the agricultural college, and are eminently fitted to prescribe the "quantity" and the "quality" of the education to be given at that institution, as well as to defend the unassailed character of Drs. Wyman and Bigelow. For the sake of pleasing you, and to have a little common ground for us to stand upon, I am willing to concede all this to your "contagion dogma." Yes, I will do more—I will concede that it proves you to be a "dairy farmer," who ought to be received into the fraternity, for you have had an experience of fourteen years standing "in milking the State treasury," and have grown up to lusty manhood on the pap. These then, are not points at issue between us, and though you decline "to deal with the professor's statements in detail," will you not for the sake of a "deluded public," please ("to use an old agricultural illustration") "stand up to the rack" which you built, and "take your fodder of wrath and cabbage." My dear fellow; don't for a moment imagine that you are a cuttle fish, and that it is immaterial whether you are head up or head down, or [illegible] eventually hide yourself beneath the inky cloud of nonsense which you have emitted. The disputed points are, was the pleuro-pneumonia imported, was it contagious, and was it investigated by scientific, learned men or ignorant "cow doctors." The "details" are such that it is not sufficient to "assert" and "reassert" the infant's argument of, "it ain't, it ain't, *cause it ain't.*" On these points, you blankly "assert," that you are wise above all that has been written, above all who have investigated them, and unless you come down from the lofty position which you have assumed, and condescend to take up the "details" and by your superior knowledge and penetration, prove that all who have gone before you in this field of study were fools, I apprehend you will be a "suspected cat," though you may escape "hanging."

I am, sir,

Yours respectfully,

LEVI STOCKBRIDGE.

Amherst, Feb. 6, 1871.

NOVEL WAY OF PRODUCING EARLY POTATOES.

A sample of very fine kidney potatoes (Mona's Pride,) four and five inches long, has been shown in this office, grown in the demesne of Andrew M'Cullagh, Esq., of St. Brendon's, Coolock, on a new system. His gardener, Mr. Byrne, has found out a mode—which he preserves as a strict secret—of growing potatoes in the open air, without permitting the sets to produce tops; the new crop coming direct from the eyes of the old potatoes, and to which they are attached, and it seems that this crop has taken but six weeks to come to perfection, and that from the same piece of land he has two crops in twelve weeks, commencing about the fifth of March last. The advantages of this system are, that there is no forcing, no manure, and that the surface can be occupied by other small garden crops that require both light and air to bring them to perfection. We have seen many years ago new potatoes repeatedly produced during the winter season by packing the whole potatoes in layers in a mixture of earth and coal ashes on hurdles in a dry out house, but how Mr. Byrne at this season, when all nature puts on her holiday garb in green and gorgeous tinting, prevents the potatoes from putting forth their green stems and leaves, and yet produces new potatoes, is to us a mystery.—*Irish Farmers' Gazette.*

For the Massachusetts Ploughman.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

THEIR COMMON DISEASES.

NO. V.

BY DR. D. D. SLADE.

I have spoken in my preceding papers of the importance of securing to our animals abundance of good air and sunshine by proper attention to the ventilation and construction of our barns and stables; of the great need of perfect cleanliness which can only be attained by properly arranged stalls; of the necessity of keeping the functions of the skin in order by the daily use of currycomb, brush or card, as also of regular exercise all these having for their end the prevention of disease, I now proceed to make some general remarks upon food.

There is no subject, perhaps, that gives rise to more discussion at all agricultural meetings, public and private, than the one now under consideration, and well it may, for none is of more importance to the farmer in an economical point of view.

Every man is apt to consider his mode of feeding the best, and that his knowledge on the subject is much greater than his neighbors. These friendly contests are well, for they serve to bring out each one's experience, and tend towards the elucidation of the truth. In the feeding of stock, there are essential points to be borne in mind, viz:—whether we have in view the growth and development of muscle, or the increase of fat and the production of butter. For the proper understanding of these points, the farmer should understand certain physiological laws which govern them. He should have a knowledge of the proximate principles as they are called, *i. e.*, the substances entering into the composition of the animal body, and into the various kinds of food; of, the manner in which these proximate principles are introduced into the system, as well as the kind, quantity and quality. He should be acquainted with the process by which they are digested and assimilated, and with the mode by which the process of feeding and fattening is most easily attained. Without going very deeply into the matter, I can perhaps offer some explanations which will be of service.

The proximate principles may be divided into two classes: 1st, those which are *inorganic* in their nature, and have a definite chemical composition. Of these the most important are water, salt, potash, lime, soda and magnesia. These are introduced with the food, and are taken up by the animal tissues exactly as they exist in external nature. They undergo no chemical change in becoming component parts of the system, nor in passing from it. By their presence they induce changes in other ingredients which are necessary to the process of nutrition. Water not only enters largely into the composition of the blood, but serves also for the introduction and discharge of materials, which, being solid, must become fluid, in order to pass into the animal frame. It is conveyed into the system not only in the usual way of drinking, but it also enters as an ingredient of the different kinds of solid food. Its importance to the economy is probably greater than any other ingredient, and should be supplied with constant regularity.

It is found that man can go much longer when deprived of food than he can when deprived of water, and that dogs will live several days longer when supplied with water alone than when deprived of both solid and liquid food.

Salt enters largely into the various tissues and fluids of the body, and is consequently of great importance as an ingredient of the food of man and other animals. It occurs in both animal and vegetable food but not to any great amount. Hence the necessity of supplying it as is commonly done. Herbiverous animals have an instinctive desire for this substance, and in the fattening of swine, experiment has shown that the assimilation of the food goes on better if salt is supplied to them. Phosphate of lime is also to be found in every tissue and fluid, and next to salt is one of the most important ingredients of the body. It gives to the bones, teeth and cartilage their solidity, being intimately united to them, but not so as to lose its chemical properties. When from any cause this substance is not supplied in sufficient quantity a softening of the bony tissues is the consequence. The phosphate of lime as well as the other inorganic substances, the potash, soda and magnesia are usually supplied in sufficient quantity directly by the food, or they are formed in the body by the decomposition of other salts.

The proximate principles of the second class are termed organic. They do not exist in external bodies, but are only found as ingredients of organised ones. These are starch, sugar and fat, albumen, fibrine and caseine. The three last are known as albuminous substances, or as nitrogenous, from the fact that they contain the element, nitrogen, while the three first contain no nitrogen, and therefore are called non-nitrogenous. Starch forms a great portion of the various grains, corn, wheat, rye, oats; it exists also largely in potatoes, in peas, beans, and in most vegetable substances. Starch is easily converted into sugar, and this always takes place in the process of digestion. Sugar is derived from both animal and vegetable sources; under the head of animal sugars, we have milk sugar, liver sugar, which are produced in the tissues of the mammary gland and liver, and sugar of honey, which is prepared by the bee. Under vegetable sugars we have cane, grape and sugar of starch. The fats are derived also from both animal and vegetable substances, and unlike the other proximate principles, exist in distinct masses or deposits. A large portion of the fat found in the body can be accounted for by that which is received into it with the food, but experiments have conclusively shown that this would not be sufficient, and thus it is undoubtedly also formed by the decomposition of other proximate principles.

Certain kinds of food favor the production of fat more than others; this is particularly the case with those containing large quantities of sugar. In sugar growing countries, it is a well known fact that the negroes as well as the animals employed, grow remarkably fat, during the season of sugar-making, and lose this again after the season is over. It is probable that the sugary matter is first assimilated, and then supplies the materials for the production of fat. But saccharine materials are not sufficient, as is shown when animals, swine for example, are fed on substances containing abundance of starch, which as we have seen is easily converted into sugar by the process of digestion. Fatty or oily matters must also be supplied. If pigs are fed on boiled potatoes alone, which abound in starch, they fatten slowly, while, if care is taken to give them also some greasy substance either in a fluid or solid form they accumulate fat rapidly. The nitrogenous substances, albumen, fibrine and caseine differ in important particulars from the other proximate principles,—one is that they coagulate,—another, that when they decay they excite fermentation in other substances. They also undergo putrifaction. These enter so largely into the animal tissues and fluids that no food can long be nutritious without them, yet experiments prove that if given alone, animals become after a short time enfeebled, and finally die of starvation.

The instinctive desire of animals for certain substances is the surest indication that they are required for the nutrition of the body—and the repugnance shown for other substances is equally an evidence that they are totally unfit for this purpose. It will thus be seen that no one class of proximate principles can be sufficient for the nutrition of the body, but then the food to be nourishing must contain substances belonging to *all* of them, and moreover that these substances should be mixed together in the proportions best suited for the different kinds of animals, and for the purposes we have in view, whether the growth of strength and muscle, the increase of fat and production of butter, or a great amount of the milk secretion without regard to its quality.

Stock Department.

FATTENING CATTLE.

The age at which cattle can be profitably fattened will depend much upon their breeding, and the manner in which they have been reared. Steers or heifers, having from half to three-fourths Shorthorn or Hereford blood in them, and that had been kept in a thrifty growing condition from calf hood, are usually sufficiently advanced to be put up to fatten when from thirty to thirty-six months old. Pure bred animals of Shorthorn or Hereford blood may be profitably fattened at an earlier age. A cross of one-half to three-quarter Devon blood on common stock, makes an animal that can go into the stalls at two years old, if it has been kept in good growing condition. Common native cattle can rarely be profitably fed for the butcher till they are four years old. If cattle are put up to fatten before their growth has sufficiently advanced, so as to bring them near their full capacity of laying up substance, much of the food given them, instead of going to make them fat, will be wasted in adding bone and muscle which could have been obtained more cheaply by giving them time to complete their development on ordinary keep. Besides, the effort to fatten an animal when in an immature state can only result in producing meat of a very inferior quality, and commanding a much less price than if the same animal had been kept on longer until its frame had become solid and well knit together, its muscles developed to their full capacity, and its stomach capable of digesting and assimilating a larger amount of food than is actually required to sustain the ordinary growth and wear and tear of life, without derangement of its vitality.

There are every year great numbers of young cattle sold to the butcher, or slaughtered by farmers, and their carcasses brought to market at the close of the grass season, when they are in a state of development that renders their flesh of an intermediate quality between veal and beef, without the richness of one or the rich juiciness of the other, but as flavorless and worthless as any flesh can well be. It is sheer folly to sacrifice such animals for the sake of the paltry saving of a few months' food, when by keeping them over one winter more they would bring nearly double their present value, and be fit to make into beef that is full of rich, savory juices.

Stall feeding cattle, judiciously conducted, presents to the grain grower the most efficient, cheap and desirable method of keeping up the fertility of his farm, and the most profitable means of disposing of his surplus hay, roots and coarse grains. The manure made from such cattle, were it all the profit derived from the process, would be amply sufficient to repay the farmer for his trouble; while the hay and grain so consumed would sell in the shape of beef for a higher price than if it had been taken to market.—*Canada Farmer.*

CHEAP SUPERPHOSPHATES.

There is no doubt that under the present system of farming, the lands of this country are becoming gradually exhausted. Every successive year brings smaller crops, because it diminishes the fertility of the soil. Only a small portion of what is taken from the ground in the shape of grain and fruits and grasses is restored in the shape of manures. Dairy and grazing districts are partial exceptions; but even in them more manure is wasted than saved, while in gardening or grain-growing it is utterly impossible to make as much natural manure as is required to keep the soil in its primitive fertility. To supply this deficiency it has been found necessary to resort to artificial manures. These fertilizers are prepared in various ways and are of as various merits. Some of them are nearly worthless, except to the manufacturer, who often succeeds in palming off a cheap and spurious article for a time, and thus making his fortune. Such impositions have aroused suspicions against commercial manures of all kinds, and have thus tended to check their use. This result is certainly to be regretted. Although the dairyman or the grazier can, as a general thing, safely trust to his compost heap and animal manure, artificial fertilizers are indispensable to gardeners, and directly or indirectly to grain-growers.—*Utica Herald.*

HARDEN THE NECKS OF YOUR TEAMS.

Some horses have tender skin, and the harness will sometimes gall them cruelly, in defiance of all means to prevent it. But, many times, the true cause is attributable to a bad collar, bad harness, or to a good harness improperly fitted to the animal. A yoke of bows that do not fit the oxen well will often gall them, and unfit them for labor, when, if these things were as they ought to be, they would work with far more ease, and their skin would not be galled.

When a harness or yoke of bows do not fit properly, and their skin is liable to be galled, bathe those parts before they are galled, with cold water until the outside skin appears to be quite soft, and then bathe those parts with a strong decoction of white oak bark. Let this be done every day, and the skin will soon become much harder and tougher than it usually is. A little care in preventing an ill is far better than much labor and skill in curing it, or in endeavoring to obviate its injurious effects.—*Working Farmer.*

Questions & Answers.

WORMS IN HORSES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I wish you, through the columns of the *Ploughman*, would give some information concerning worms in horses. I have a horse that has been troubled with them for a long time, and I do not succeed in getting rid of them. What will be a safe and sure remedy?

Yours respectfully,

CHESTER SCRIPTURE.

Sheffield, Jan. 24, 1871.

That question cannot be answered and ought never to be attempted without many qualifications, for the reason that worms are caused by many different things, each one creating a different species of worm and requiring specific treatment. What would be good and proper treatment for one might be anything but proper for another.

The presence of worms is often due to entirely opposite causes. It is sometimes poor treatment, feeding on innutritious meadow hay, and sometimes to over-feeding grain, etc. Now since no uniform rule can be laid down, it is wiser to call in a competent veterinary surgeon.—[ED.

MARYLAND FARMING.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Can you give me a chapter on Farming, in the *Ploughman*, in the eastern coast of Maryland, with the price of land, kind of soil, abundance of fish and game, and the character and enterprise of the people and also the name of a good weekly newspaper published in that section or in Baltimore.

I would also like your opinion in regard to Farming in the central portions of New Hampshire, compared with Maryland.

North Bridgewater, Jan. 16, 1871. F. P

Will our Maryland correspondent, D. Z. Evans, Jr., be so kind as to give the information desired, with reference to Maryland. We should be happy to have our New Hampshire correspondent, Levi Bartlett of Warner, speak for New Hampshire also.

We have some well settled convictions in regard to both locations, but they would be of less value than those of people more conversant with facts on the spot.—[Ed.

The Stable.

HOW MUCH WORK A HORSE CAN DO.

At the meeting of the British Association at Dublin, Mr. Charles Bianconi, of Caspel, read a paper relative to his extensive car establishment, after which a gentleman stated that at Pickford's, the great English carrier's, they could not work a horse more than ten miles a day, and wished to hear Mr. Bianconi's opinion on the subject. Mr. Bianconi replied he found by experience, he could better work a horse eight miles a day for six days in the week, than six miles a day for seven days. By not working on Sunday, he effected a saving of 12 per cent. Mr. Bianconi's opinion on this point is of the highest importance, for he has over nine hundred horses working sixty-seven conveyances, which daily travel four thousand two hundred and forty-four miles. It is also the result of forty-three years' experience.—*Scientific American.*

TO TRAIN A HORSE TO STAND.

Take your horse on the barn floor and throw a strap over his back and fasten it to his right fore foot; lead him along and say "whoa," at the same time pull down the strap, which throws him on three feet, and makes him stop suddenly. This is the best way known to teach whoa, though you can put on the war bridle, and say, whoa, and give him a sharp jerk that will stop him about as soon as the strap to his foot. Then put him in harness, with the foot strap, as directed under the head of "training to harness," and drive him up to the door. The moment he undertakes to move, take his foot and say, whoa. Get in your carriage and get out again; rattle the thills, make all the noise getting in and out you can; give him to understand, by snatching his foot each time he moves, that he must stand until you tell him to go; and after a few times you can put the whole family in the carriage and he won't stir out of his tracks.—*Am. Stock Journal.*

Miscellaneous.

WRONG PRACTICE WITH POTATOES.

In passing grocery and vegetable stores, and often upon the docks, we observe potatoes in barrels, exposed to the broiling sun, kept in wait for customers. This is a wrong practice, and a great injustice to the delicate vegetable.

We insist that the potato is as delicate and as readily damaged in flavor as almost any of the other vegetables brought upon the table. Exposure to the sun for even a few hours render it unfit for any other purpose than propagation. These tubers, when boiled, show either a yellowish or a greenish tint immediately beneath the skin, according to the length of time they have been exposed to the sun's rays; and they are disagreeable to the taste as well as unwholesome to the consumer. "Fine flavored" potatoes are those which are grown to full size in proper season, upon any soil, and taken out of the light of day as soon as they are dug. The bitterness and sogginess is imparted to the tuber by the wrong treatment after digging.

Many farmers are neglectful of their own interests when they gather there crops. The potatoes are either left in small heaps on the field for a day or two or thrown into the cart to be hauled in when convenient. Then they are spread out in the light on the barn floor or in the corn house, there to lie until a rainy day gives opportunity for sorting. The "hog potatoes" have, by this time, become unfit for any other use, if indeed the whole crop is not spoiled even for the hogs.

What is needful is a thorough conviction among those who raise and handle potatoes that they are to be kept out of the light. When dug, the potatoes should be sheltered at once, and when put into the bins let them be covered, even in the cellar. Those exposed to any appreciable degree of light will soon become strong—another word for distasteful—and the soil or the season often takes the blame of the matter. The grocer should hide his potatoes in the darkest corner of his cellar, and if anxious to sell let him put up a sign "potatoes for sale." We would go to that man for a supply rather than buy even a small measure from a barrel standing outside the grocer's door.—*Home, Farm and Orchard.*

TO MAKE COWS GIVE MILK.

The agricultural editor of the Bee-keeper's *Journal* vouches for the following, handed him by a friend: If you desire to get a large yield of milk, give your cow three times a day water slightly warm, slightly salted, in which bran has been stirred at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water. You will gain twenty-five per cent. immediately under the effects of it, and she will become so attached to the diet as to refuse to drink clear water, unless very thirsty, but this mess she will drink at almost any time and ask for more. The amount of this drink is an ordinary water pail at each time morning, noon, and night. Your animal will then do her best at discounting the lacteal.

Correspondence.

ROAD MAKING.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Seeing an article in the *Ploughman* upon Road Making, and feeling a great interest in the subject, I offer a few suggestions.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS.

In constructing a public road, the road master should be required to make the road not less than twenty feet wide, with a gentle grade, free from stones, stumps, or any obstruction, so that persons travelling upon the road, may feel safe in passing teams, or any other travel on the road.

REPAIRS OF ROADS.

In repairing roads it requires great skill and judgment to plan out the work. In the spring of the year there are deep ruts in the road; the first thing to be done is to fill them up. Now the best way is to fill the ruts with gravel, smooth them over, roll it down with a heavy roller, and take out all the stones and carry them away. The road should be repaired with gravel, the best that can be obtained, if it is carted a mile. Gravel may not be laid more than six inches deep upon cross roads; gravel must be spread evenly, raked over, and all the stones removed.

The tools to be used, are a shovel, a pick, a hoe, a crow bar, plough, oxen and cart, horses and cart.

The old system of repairing roads, by ploughing up the sides of the road, ought to be dispensed with as much as possible.

Good roads give character to a town. Wherever they are, you will find refinement and good taste.

In repairing roads with broken stone, it should be laid evenly, and a light spread of gravel over the same.

The best method of management on the part of towns, is to choose a road master, whose duty it shall be to manage the roads in every part of the town.

The road master should be under the direction of the selectmen of the town.

The road master should employ good and faithful men, and work himself, and own his team. The master should make return every month to the selectmen of the town, of the work performed, and should receive his pay for the same, for where men are well and promptly paid, there is more interest felt in the work.

The present system of repairing roads is so utterly inefficient that I would recommend that the towns dispense with the district system, that they may have better roads at less expense. DANIEL WESTON.

Lincoln.

PROFITS OF HENS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I have thought it might not be out of place to give some account of my hens for the past year, and to show how a few hens might be made profitable.

At the beginning of 1870, I had seven hens and one cock. The hens have been confined in their yard most of the year. Corn has been their principal food. I give the following account of eggs for each month:

January they laid	. . .	66 eggs.
February "	. . .	68 "
March "	. . .	83 "
April "	. . .	132 "
May "	. .

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEB. 18, 1871.

BOARD OF OFFICERS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Elected at the Annual Meeting, held in the City of Boston, February 7th, 1871.

PRESIDENT.

GEO. B. LORING of Salem, Mass.

SECRETARY.

DANIEL NEEDHAM, Groton, Mass.

TREASURER.

GEO. W. RIDDLE, Manchester, N.H.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

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AMASA SPRAGUE of Cranston, R. I.
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NOTICE.

NEW ENGLAND FAIR FOR 1871.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the New England Agricultural Society, this day held, it was voted—That the Secretary give public notice to all parties desirous of making proposals for the New England Fair for 1871, to send them in to the Secretary on or before the seventh day of March next.

At the annual meeting previously held, the following vote was passed.

Voted—That the Exhibition of the New England Society be held in Lowell the present year, should satisfactory proposals be made for this purpose by the citizens of Lowell to the Executive Committee of the New England Society.

In accordance with the above votes, the Secretary hereby gives notice that he will receive proposals to be laid before the Executive Committee for the location of the next Fair of the New England Society until the seventh day of March next.

DANIEL NEEDHAM, *Secretary.*

Boston, Feb. 7, 1871.

The Andrew Statue.—The transfer of the statue of the late Gov. Andrew by the Committee of subscribers to the State, took place with due ceremony on Tuesday last in Doric Hall, at the State House, none but invited guests, beside the Legislature, being present to witness or participate. It was an impressive occasion. The marble itself is a perfect specimen, and the statue is a speaking likeness under the skillful hand of the artist, Thomas Ball. The accompanying addresses, by President Coolidge of the Senate, Hon. Wm. Gray of the Committee, and Gov. Claflin, were fit and eloquent, and well adapted to such an act of honorable commemoration. The statue of Andrew will crumble long before he is himself forgotten.

Col. Chickering.—This well known gentleman, the head of the great piano manufacturing house of this city, died suddenly of apolexy on Tuesday morning last. He was in his usual health on the previous day, but succumbed to the same stroke that carried off his honored father. It is singular that the heads of the two great rival piano manufactories of the country—Chickering and Steinway—should be taken away by death within a week of one another. Col. Chickering was in deservedly high repute as a citizen, and had hosts of warmly attached friends. Such a man's loss is irreparable in a community that boasts of its wealth in no more than in that of the products of their enterprise or industry.

Col. Wilder's Lecture.—Though the night was unfortunately very inclement, a large and intellectual audience assembled to listen to Col. Wilder's treatment of the character, resources, and prospects of California, last week on Wednesday evening. The most of his statements had passed in procession before the popular mind before, but he possessed the skill so to group and associate them, to marshal them into illustrative order, and to make them tell an intelligent and impressive story, that we do not exaggerate when we declare, that people who thought they were already familiar with the characteristics of this noble Pacific State, confessed that never before did they possess a clear conception of its elements of resources, its nascent power or the marvellous productiveness of its soil. New England and California are yet to be drawn closer together.

Poor Distracted France.—The leaders of the French seem all to have lost their heads, and the story is that the pressure of excitement has turned Bismark's head also. Bourbaki has committed suicide; Rochefort has attempted his own life; Rochefort is insanely striving to stir up Paris again to war; and there is a state of almost wild unsettlement. France deserves the pity of the world. Besides being considered, she realizes how desperately hard are the conditions imposed on her by Bismark, and despair instinctively seizes on the general mind. There should be moral power resident somewhere in Europe, strong enough to step in and end a misery which threatens the annihilation of a great power of the earth. Who could have foreseen these marvellous changes only one short year ago?

Our Large Ice Supplies.—The crystal for summer use has now been housed to the hundred thousand tons. For quality it was never surpassed. It has been secured in the best of weather and put away without any drawbacks. And no croaking or combination should avail to put up the price a penny above what it was, at the time it was raised during the war. A small family could soon be supplied by the year for twelve dollars, now it is thirty-six. We are satisfied that there is more ice cut than the monopolists can carry on their shoulders, broad as they are. Everybody ought to have this all proportion this year, if never again. Nature has certainly done the handsome thing to the human family by her cold snaps, this season, which we only hope have killed myriads of the eggs of insects destined to the trees also.

☞ Ole Bull, the celebrated Norwegian violinist, has purchased the elegant estate of Jacob Black in West Lebanon, Me., for $6,500, which he is to make his residence at the season, being one of the finest in the State.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS TO BE ADJUSTED.

Within the past week it has been announced that the governments of the United States and Great Britain have agreed upon a mixed commission of ten to sit at Washington, for the purpose of adjusting all questions of difference between the two countries, including the recent fishery difficulties and the Alabama claims, as well as all minor matters which have existed for years past, out of which claims have arisen between them. The Queen's speech at the opening of parliament, and a confidential message sent by the President to the Senate on the same day, the 9th, announced the amicable and sensible plan adopted for reaching this desired result.

The delay in the departure of Gen. Schenck to his newly appointed mission to England, which had begun to excite general remark, was satisfactorily explained by the correspondence communicated in the President's message. January 26th a note was received from Minister Thornton, proposing a joint commission to hold its sessions at Washington, to discuss the mode of settling the questions which have arisen out of the fisheries, and other questions affecting our relations with the Canadas. Secretary Fish replied, suggesting that the commission should not be limited to the questions referred to in Mr. Thornton's note, but that it should also consider the differences which arose during our rebellion, commonly known as the Alabama claims, and that thus the vexed question might be put in the way of a final and amicable settlement. The British minister at once replied that he was authorized by Her Majesty's government to consent that these claims should be discussed by the same High Commission, provided all other claims, both of British subjects and citizens of the United States, arising out of the recent war, should be similarly referred to the Commission. To this proposition the Secretary answered that our government admitted its propriety, provided that the commissioners should consider only such claims of this description as may be presented to the government of the respective claimants at an early day to be agreed on by the commissioners. The date of the last note was the 3d inst.

The commissioners on the part of England were at once appointed, five in number. Earl de Gray and Ripon, Sir Edward Thornton, the resident minister, John A. McDonald and Sir John Rose, of Canada, and Dr. Barnard, professor of international law at Oxford. Lord Tenterden was appointed also to accompany them as Secretary. These gentlemen are now on their way to this country. The President on the same day nominated to the Senate, Secretary Fish, General Schenck, Judge Nelson of the Supreme Court, Hon. E. R. Hoar, late attorney general, and Senator Williams of Oregon. On Friday all these gentlemen were confirmed by the Senate, after some debate, and it is expected that the commission will commence its sessions at once upon the arrival of the English members.

The selection made by the President is acknowledged to be judicious, and on our part the commission will be composed of strong men. The members from the other side are said to be shrewd statesmen and men thoroughly acquainted with the questions with which they will have to deal. The time is favorable for the re opening of the discussions on the questions which have so long caused ill feeling between the two countries. The fishery question is one which demanded immediate attention, and it was reasonable that all matters should be settled at once, so as to leave nothing behind which might lead to any future disturbance of the cordial relations which ought to subsist between us. It is a subject of general congratulation that questions of such importance shall be taken out of the sphere of politics, and be calmly and fairly considered by ten of the ablest men selected from both sides. The announcement is received with satisfaction by the press and the people of this country, and we doubt not that the English press will respond in a similar tone. Nothing has transpired as to the instructions under which the commissioners will act, nor as to the limits of their powers in dealing with the questions to arise. But it is to be presumed that they will agree upon a treaty embodying the principles of settlement, leaving the details to be carried out according to a plan to be agreed upon. The President expresses a hope that in a very short time, say in April or May, he may submit the result of the commission to the Senate for ratification.

FINE ARTS MUSEUM.

The glory and attraction of the great European capitals to the stranger, consist in a great degree of the treasures and monuments of ancient and modern art, which have been accumulating for centuries. Under the fostering care and lavish expenditures of sovereigns, especially on the continent of Europe, the galleries and collections of art have become the repositories of priceless treasures, which form the pride of the cities, and exert a strong influence on the higher education of the people. Art schools and museums have also been established in many of the principal cities of Europe, which make them the resort of the traveller and the student, and give a lustre to civilization.

The cultivation of the fine arts in America is yet in its infancy, and there is not in one of our cities a collection which would be looked upon as tenth rate compared with the meanest of European collections. We have our artists, our men of wealth and education, who have leisure and taste for the study and enjoyment of all that is noble and beautiful in art, but we are lamentably deficient in the means of enjoyment and study, and these deficiencies are confined to the comparatively few who can travel abroad.

A movement has been inaugurated in this city to establish a Museum which shall be devoted to the Fine Arts, and to increase the means of education and higher culture at home. The taste and the aspirations we have, but the means of gratifying them are limited indeed. There is an encouraging prospect that the foundation will soon be laid for such an institution, in time to be extended to a large and comprehensive scale. Last year a number of gentlemen were incorporated for the purpose, and they are energetically carrying out their plans. The city have given an ample lot of land on the Back Bay, and the sum of $130,000 has already been contributed in cash towards the enterprise, which it is expected will require $300,000 to place it on a fair basis to commence. In course of time as the thing grows, it is expected that the building will be enlarged, as there is ample space for it, and it will be a favorite object of the liberality of our wealthy men. All feel the importance and value of such an institution, to be open to the public without charge, and as time goes on it will be the pride and ornament of our city.

As a nucleus for the collection which it is expected will be formed here, the Boston Athenæum, with a noble generosity, has offered to give the fine collection of ancient armor and other works of medieval arts, bequeathed to it by the late T. Bigelow Lawrence, and we believe they will in time offer their collection of paintings and statuary. Harvard College offers the fine collection of engravings not to be surpassed in the world, given to it by the late Francis C. Gray, and the Public Library its valuable collection of engravings, the gift of Mr. William Appleton. The first step would be to procure plaster casts of all the finest antique and modern statuary in the European collections and photograps and other reproductions of the works of the great masters. An encouraging enthusiasm has been awakened and cherished by many of the leading minds and men of wealth of the city and neighborhood, and there is every prospect of laying the foundations of an institution which in time, and by the liberality of those who succeed the founders, may become a credit and ornament to the city and country. Such an institution must exercise a most potent influence on our civilization and culture, and in the scope which it is intended to give it, upon the higher developement of our material industries and prosperity.

New England Poultry Club.—When we name this enterprising, wide-awake, and successful organization, we stir all hearts with pleasure and pride. For it has done memorable things in the past, and scattered far and wide benefits that are every day felt and enjoyed on almost every table, and in almost every yard in the country. The fowl is our domestic bird. He is bred for meat, eggs, and feathers, to say nothing of the intense satisfaction it gives to contemplate a beautiful bird. The crow of the proud cock, the cackle of the delighted hen, the strut and gobble of the turkey, the down of the goose, the ceaseless gabble of the duck, all charm the ear of the fancier and the regular breeder, and lend an interest to home and its surroundings not acquired by any other agencies. The New England Poultry Club, composed of individuals, who are persistently pursuing the breeding of fine fowls, as a practical science that better birds may be brought to table, and finer eggs may be eaten by all who love them as food, will hold its Annual Exhibition at Worcester early next month, when it is expected that even a finer collection of specimens of fowls will be made for the public eye than any assembled hitherto. There are progressive spirits concerned in the management of the affairs of the Poultry Club, who are resolved not to be outdone in the country. They have continually in their eye some of the later poultry exhibitions in Paris, and believe that in a short time they can successfully rival them. We urge all who can to go up to this exhibition in March, and aid the managers in the triumph they intend to achieve.

Masquerading.—The Germans of this city give an annual masquerading party, and one is to come off on the 20th., when all sorts of comical scenes are expected to be enacted. The Turners are famed for their ingenuity in devising grotesque and exaggerated costumes, that shall nevertheless fitly express some prominent fact, movement, or idea of the time. No people are more given to nonsense and general jollity than they. Of course the present war with France is to come in for every possible form of ridiculous illustration, saddening as the actual results across the water. These occasions, of which our German fellow-citizens make so much, are anticipated with a hearty relish, and there is a vast deal of excitement am. ng them to see who is to bear off the palm of nonsense. As laughter is the god of the time, a great many people will crowd to the scene to enjoy what is rarely enough presented in such an irrisistible form, *Vive la Vagatelle!*

Ex. Gov. Smyth of New Hampshire.—CORRECTION. By a singular omission and typographical error the name of Ex. Gov. Frederick Smyth, Vice President from New Hampshire, was omitted from the official publication of the transactions of the New England Society last week. Gov Smyth was one of the earliest and has ever been one of the foremost and most steadfast friends of the New England Society, and we greately deplore the injustice done him by not announcing his name in the official report.

After the Horse is Stolen.—That is the time when people usually lock the stable door. It is at the present time being locked very tight, in view of the shocking disaster on the Hudson River Railway. Almost all the daily journals of New York have in turn tried their hand at fixing the blame, condemning the parties deserving it, and telling the public that makes the statutes how to prevent similar catastrophes in the future. And the excitement and indignation will all be passed shortly, just as the Angola, Carr's Rock, and other murderous accidents have passed out of the minds of all but the sufferers. Where is the true and abiding remedy to be found for these fatal faults?

Getting About.—It is not quite the same thing with "getting along." We refer, by getting about, to the facility, which the snow furnishes, at this season of leisure among farmers, for cultivating social amenities and neighborhood friendships. There must be some pure rewards in life, to be enjoyed as we go along; and these are of them. After a good hot breakfast, then, harness up and bundle into the family sleigh after the good old fashion. Drive over to Friend A's house, or slip down to Neighbor B's, or drop in and take a genuine noonday dinner with Farmer C. and his house full of bright boys and blooming girls. Any how, improve the sleighing. When it comes July again, you will wish with a vain regret that you could look back to such true pleasures.

"Played Out."—As predicted, the railroads and the currents of modern life have produced their effect on the institutions of Utah, and we find already that polygamy is on its last legs, tottering to its fall. Brigham Young was forced to own up to the effect of modern life on a large part of his followers—the women—by lecturing in such severe terms on the extravagance and folly of their dressing. He confessed that it was next to impossible to keep up the polygamy system, while wives were so bent on running their husbands by the lavishness of their expenditure and the extent of their wardrobes. He thought when the Government, seriously considered the plan of launching a strong military column against these refractory Mormons, that a stock of dry goods, moved in by the help of railroads would do the work much more effectually and twice as rapidly. Verily, there is power in a piece of silk and the shade of a ribbon, and states have been revolutionized by them.

WORDS ABOUT CATTLE.

The temperature of the buildings in which cattle are kept is a matter of very considerable importance, and one to which the attention it deserves has not been generally given. It seems rather late in the day to say this, after so much has been written in the pages of agricultural journals, and discussed at the meetings of farmers' clubs, on the subject of the chemistry of cattle feeding. Yet it is true, nevertheless, that, despite all this, comparatively little evidence is seen as to the grave error it had in the practice of farmers; else, how comes it that year after year passes over our heads—the cold of winter comes and goes again—and yet the "old ways" are walked! Cattle are subjected to conditions of atmospheric influences which are as costly in their effects upon the animals as they are indisputably cruel; and the lessons of experience in the presence of sickly animals, and of food consumed for which there has been no adequate return, are of as little weight apparently as those of theory and science.

Let it be understood that the food of all animals is made up of various constituents, each of which, or each group of which, performs special functions, one group going to the maintenance of the animal tissues, another group going to that of the animal heat; and it will be, or should be, at once observed, that if you subject the animals to conditions in which a certain degree of the temperature of their bodies is withdrawn, you do one of two things—you either must increase the supply of food to make up for the heat lost, or you allow the temperature of the body to be reduced; and when that is the case, the condition of the animal is no longer that which it ought to be. We need not go to modern science to tell us this; those who think so highly of the wisdom of our ancestors will find that wisdom embodied in an old saw,—"Meat is heat."—*Scottish Farmer*

[From the London Field, January 14, 1871.]

PREVENTION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

When an infectious disease is prevailing among animals in a district, every stock owner whose cattle are for the time being healthy, hopes to escape the infliction. It is a fact in the history of epizootics that, notwithstanding the rapid spread of infection, some herds and flocks in every infected district enjoy a remarkable immunity. During the past year, while travelling through places which were ravaged by the cattle plague, our attention was directed to single farms, here and there, as favored spots which had stood alone, unassailed by the pest which was raging all round them.

Sometimes there is connected with the story of the lucky escape of all the animals on a particular farm a little history of the means which were employed by the owner to protect his animals against the invasion of the malady. To the efficacy of these protective measures the inventor is usually ready to pledge his faith, and he recommends the plan which has never failed in his experience, with unflinching firmness, no shadow of a doubt crossing his mind respecting the power of the talisman. Some herds we are told were preserved from infection by the simple process of smearing their noses with tar; in other instances bags of camphor hung around the animal's neck proved powerfully repellant to the virus of the disease. Vinegar applied to the nostrils by means of a sponge, or in the form of a vapor arising from the heated fluid, found many advocates who were ready to risk everything upon it.

Some few owners of stock trusted to the commonplace expedient of keeping all strangers—human beings and quadrupeds—away from their premises while the infectious disease prevailed, and they often found their plan very successful. Many persons took a sceptical view of the whole situation, laughed at the risk of infection, adopted no precaution at all—so they say, at least—even went directly from diseased herds among their own animals, and, finding that no harm resulted from this reckless course of procedure, finished by denying the existence of infection at all.

With one exception, all the methods of prevention, as they were called by their originators, are useless or absurd. Those men who rigidly carried out, at much inconvenience, a system of strict isolation generally escaped the cattle plague; and the means which they employed deserved success. Other persons, who trusted in the various notions which were so current at the time of the plague, were often disappointed, but in some instances their cattle remained in safety, simply in consequence of the virus of cattle plague not being brought in contact with them; and for this reason obviously those also who do not believe in infection enjoyed a piece of good fortune when their animals escaped, and suffered the just punishment of recklessness when they were swept away. Effectual preventive measures must be based upon a firm conviction of the existence and liability of the virus of an infectious malady, no matter of what class.

Foot and mouth disease is comparatively a harmless affection, but it is quite as readily propagated as cattle plague; and precautions against its spread must be carried out with an amount of energy and perseverance which can only be maintained under a conviction of the absolute necessity of the steps which are being taken. All half hearted attempts at disinfection are worse than useless, because they entail much trouble, which avails nothing, and great disappointments, which is vexatious. When a stock owner inquires, 'What can I do to prevent the foot and mouth disease, which is around me, attacking my herd?' the danger of infection; and it may be presumed that he is aware of the importance of omitting nothing in any system of prevention which he may adopt. Starting with this understanding he may hope to be successful; but we are bound to add, by way of qualification, that the greatest care is not always so rewarded. The channels by which infection may be conveyed are numerous, and the keenest observer may fail to block up every avenue; nevertheless, in the long run, there is no doubt of the benefits which result from the systematic observance of sanitary laws.

First in the list of preventive measures stands "isolation;" not merely the separation of the animals from other herds, but the placing them in a position so secluded that no communication, even of an indirect kind, shall take place even between them and the outer world. A herd so situated, we have, according to its value, a number of attendants, who will be required to refrain from visits of inspection to neighboring farms, (in the cattle plague times a vigilant farmer would not allow the stock men to leave his farm at all); no curious investigator, on any pretence, will be permitted to examine the animals; dogs will be forbidden to enter the premises on pain of death, and all fat stock will be sent to the butcher, or the market, *never to return*; neither butchers nor drovers will be allowed on the farm. Fresh introductions of stock must be managed with great care and skill. If possible, the animals required to keep up the necessary number, should be brought from a healthy farm, the market or fair only being resorted to as the event of all other sources of supply; and in any case of newly introduced animals, should be kept by themselves for a week at least, and as much longer as may be convenient, before they are allowed to mix with the rest of the herd.

So far the recommendations are simple, and in most cases easily carried into effect. We are aware, however, of certain districts which in certain localities render isolation impossible. In great grazing districts there are sometimes small homesteads which are widely scattered, and quite inadequate to a third of the stock, which graze on the land all the year round; in such positions isolation cannot be effected, and an infectious disease once established among the cattle in the open grounds, say, for instance, in central Somerset—runs its course in simple obedience to the laws which govern the spread of epizootics. If we are asked for a specific, which will render the animals' system proof against infection in such a case as this, we have to confess that we have none to offer.

Next to insolation in importance is disinfection—surrounding the animals with an atmosphere which is capable of neutralizing the poisonous influence of the virus, should it obtain an entrance to the place where the cattle are confined. This may be done to some extent by carbolic acid, or chloride of zinc, or sulphurous acid; but carbolic acid is the most manageable and least dangerous compound for the purpose. The air of the cowshed may be sufficiently charged with the acid by sprinkling the liquid about the floor or litter, by mixing one part of carbolic acid with forty or fifty parts of water, and saturating with this solution a quantity of sawdust, which may be spread over the floor of the shed. Clothes dipped in the solution may also be hung near the windows and doors. As an additional precaution, quicklime may be spread at the entrance to the shed, in order to meet the possible danger of any one entering the place after treading on the manure of infected animals.

By adopting these precautions as a system of daily routine, the stock owner will do all that can be done to prevent the entrance of infection. If it be objected that the means recommended entail inconvenience, trouble, and expense, it must be admitted that the objection is valid; but it is, after all, a simple matter of calculation, whether it is worth while to bear the inconvenience, to incur the expense, and undertake the work, with a reasonable probability of preserving the stock on the farm in health, in preference to leaving them unprotected to incur the risk of being attacked by the disease which, if not fatal to life, inflicts injuries which require a long time to repair.

The *London Field* of January 14 (page 31) also contains a report of the Secretary of the N. G. State Agricultural Society on the cattle disease, in which the Secretary draws an inference that the cattle disease had disappeared in England until the year 1869, and the editor of the *Field* comments as follows: "This inference is not in accordance with the fact. The disease has never entirely disappeared since its introduction in 1839, and it prevailed extensively in 1840, 1845, 1852, 1861, 1862, as well as in 1869."

The following from the *London Field* of January 21st (page 52), shews how strict the authorities are at the present day: "According to the recent return issued by the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council, four hundred and forty-three animals afflicted with infectious and contagious diseases were landed at ports in Great Britain during the month of December. * * * In every instance the diseased animals were slaughtered by order of the Customs."

READ AND RUN.

— Agramonia has usurped the head and control of the Cuban Expedition, over Cespedes.

— The number of letters written by the German armies in France is simply marvellous. That fact alone tells the story.

— Chicago complains of being overlectured. There are many individuals that feel hurt in the same way.

— The Erie Railroad has paid within a single year over a third of a million dollars in lawyers' fees.

— The conduct of the employes of the Hudson River Railroad in the recent shocking catastrophe, is condemned in the roundest terms where best understood.

— The moon has been wearing her rings of late.

— The Massachusetts Infant Asylum is doing a timely and a humane work.

— The committee having the matter in charge wish to send as near as one hundred thousand dollars worth of food, from Boston to France, as soon as possible.

— It is charged that the idiots about the scene of the Hudson River railroad disaster were the only searchers for bodies.

— A perfect signal railway system is demanded as a necessity, in view of late occurrences.

— England has for the present come to the end of the rope, in her efforts to reduce annual taxation.

— No adventurer has gone nearer the North Pole than Parry did, in 1825.

— The Lyceum library of Gloucester has just received the generous gift of ten thousand dollars from Mr. Samuel E. Sawyer.

— The conservatives triumphed in the recent elections in France.

— The weekly essays read before the Episcopal Church Association of this city are of superior merit and lasting interest.

— Col. Wilder's lecture on California was the recipient of much and sincere admiration.

— The people of England manifest very decided opposition to Parliament's voting a dowry to the Princess D[illegible] her marriage with the Marquis of Lorne. £30,000 has been voted.

— A plague has broken out among the great droves of cattle intended for the revictualling of Paris, at Brest.

— Last week, a violent gale was experienced all along the coast of the United Kingdom, resulting in the loss of numerous vessels.

— The Rev. Newman Hall, of London, says that he walks nearly eighteen miles every Sunday.

— Walter Montgomery was presented with a set of Knight's Shakspeare, by his friends and admirers, at the St. James Hotel.

— Advertising is the simple secret that has carried some of our merchants bravely through the dull times of the winter.

— Arizona calls loudly for aid from the Government, against the Apache Indians.

— The Fish and Salt Dealers have organized an Association, the business being fifty millions annually.

— The canards that every day fly out of Paris are without name or number.

— The Queen's speech to Parliament was so careful in cutting its corners that it really failed to satisfy any side.

— Stealing an umbrella is a legally recognized offence in Philadelphia, at which some persons hereabouts may reasonably prick up hope and courage.

— The divorce mill is to knock off work in Dakota for a time. They think there it has been run too much.

— A colored preacher in Virginia is perfectly satisfied to carry around such a large name as Hogshead.

— From the boastful accounts we meet of such cases, one would think the very old people were crowding all the others out of the country.

— Auroral lights of late have prophesied the storms that succeeded—last Sunday's, for example.

— A Paris butcher bought, in the way of business, the two camels and an elephant from the Jardin des Plantes, and paid four hundred dollars each.

— The Amherst love history was as perfect a romance as ever found its portraiture in the pages of fiction.

— The question of the difficulty in adjusting the rank in the navy, is because, in modern steam vessels of war, the engineers are stigmatised by the "line officers" as "dirty greasers."

— The Commission to settle our dispute with England looks promising at last.

— Weddings of the fashionable sort continue to hold their own in the society department of tea enterprising dailies.

— Gen. Banks is authority, on the floor of Congress, for the assertion that competent engineers proposed to Tunessee seaworthy, before she left for San Domingo with her precious freight.

— Oklahama is the name proposed for the new experimental Indian Territory, over which the committees in Congress are not able to agree.

— Philadelphia whispers of mad dogs in weather like this. Mad with the cold more than the heat.

— Up in Milwaukee, the people have been compelled to melt snow for water to cook with.

— Conger-eels bite fatally for small boys in New Orleans.

— A stage runs on Long Island that is warmed by a stove. It couldn't be very pleasant to catch an upset in that vehicle.

— Gambetta has "played out."

— A cold spring is what they brag on, at the Cape of Good Hope. A coffee mill should be put up hard by.

— New York cannot acclimate the Boston "dip." It has gone under for good in Gotham.

— Steady industry, resolutely employed, is sure to lead to independence and honor.

— Eleven inches on the back is the length given for a tarantula in San Francisco.

— A life of John Adams has just been published by Charles Francis Adams, the basis of it being the biography prefaced to the Life and Correspondence published fourteen years ago. It is a perfect piece of biography.

— A devoted man in New Hampshire has not occupied the house in which his wife died, nor disturbed its furniture, for ten years.

— Thirty thousand dollars have already been subscribed for the rebuilding of Phillips (Exeter) Academy, and the fund is steadily increasing.

— One hundred and five thousand gallons of menhaden oil were the product, in that line of industry, last year in Rhode Island.

— As we write these words, the public anxiety for the fate of the Tennessee is very greatly increased. Her loss would give a shock to the country.

— There is much criticism in the press of the existing system of State taxation of incomes from trades and professions.

— Steinway, the head of the famous piano manufacturing firm of New York, died last week and was buried with great ceremony.

— The impeachment of Gov. Holden, of North Carolina, is still going on.

— The New York Stock Exchange gave five thousand dollars to the French relief fund.

— There is an embassy of sixteen Japanese, with an interpreter, at the Metropolitan Hotel, in New York.

— Napoleon's proclamation to France from his captivity at Wilhelmshohe, does not seem to attract the attention it would have done under different circumstances. A few short months have wrought a marvellous change.

— Three relief ships for France will be sent out by our Government, one of them from this port.

— A brother of the late Justice Story died this week at his residence in this city. He was one of twenty-two brothers, and born at Marblehead.

— No subsidy bill promises to be passed during the present session of Congress.

— The number of sudden deaths among well-known citizens of Boston has been startling during the past week.

— The great snow storm of Tuesday knocked things into a cocked hat shape. Matters became confused beyond explanation.

— Valentine's Day came and went without any perceptible fluttering hereabouts among the feathered tribes.

— The ploughing this week has been exclusively in the snow.

— The signal for continuing the morning sessions of the public schools, in case of a storm, is made by the fire alarm.

— The death of Alice Cary, the poetess, makes a great many hearts sorrowful.

— A thousand chests of tea were received by one of our mercantile firms this week, direct from Japan by the Pacific Road.

— A. T. Stewart, of New York, does a noble deed in sending five thousand barrels of flour to starving France.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

For the week commencing Feb. 19, 1871.

Days of the Week.	Sun Rises	Sun Sets	Moon Sets	Length of Days.
SUNDAY,	6 32	5 37	setsf	10 6
MONDAY,	6 41	5 38	6 27	10 57
TUESDAY,	6 43	5 40	8 0	10 57
WEDNESDY,	6 47	5 41	9 0	10 54
THURSDAY,	6 44	5 43	10 4	10 47
FRIDAY,	6 42	5 44	11 8	11 9
SATURDAY,	6 41	5 45	morn	11 3

☞ IF YOU ARE TROUBLED with a Cough, Weakness of the Lungs, Sore Throat, Pain in the side or Kidney Complaints, *Wistar's Pure Compound* will help you, and, as a general thing, effect a permanent cure. oct29-1y

LETTER FROM LOWELL.

LOWELL, Feb. 13th, 1871.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

To say that our people feel well at the result of the annual meeting of the New England Society, is but expressing a small part of the truth. In fact, sir, they feel very, very well; and more than that, they will leave no effort untried to satisfy the officers and members of the New England Agricultural Society, that no mistake was made in locating the next Fair in the Spindle city. We were in earnest from the outset; and by all fair means we were determined to secure the next Fair. We well understood that if we did not secure it this year, we must wait the turn of Massachusetts for another opportunity, and that the next turn of Massachusetts would be six years ahead; so we chose not to wait that time. What Lowell may be, or who the officers of the Middlesex North Society may be, six years from now, we know not; but this we know, that from the Mayor to our humblest townsman, now, Lowell is ripe for the next Fair of the New England Society. And when we returned from Boston, after the annual meeting, there was a smile on every face we met, and a most generous and hearty hand shaking among all the people; as much as to say, you have won a great victory and we are proud of you. Yes, Mr. Editor, we did win a great victory; and we won it in a most honorable manner. The best men of our city became members of the New England Society, and they will not let their interest flag after the Fair. They will be at the meetings from year to year. They are live men. They move our city and are at the foundation of all our home enterprises; some of them have a State and some of them a national reputation, and the New England Agricultural Society will never be ashamed of them as associate members.

Then too, now sir, we have a live organization in the Middlesex North Agricultural Society. Our President, Major Ladd, is a live man. He has an interest in Agriculture and its developement; he has time and will take it to aid the New England Society in securing every advantage in its next Fair; he has laudable ambition and it is safe to pledge that with Major Ladd at the head, Lowell will do nothing but its first best in its contributions to aid and secure a first class exhibition for the New England Society.

The Worcester papers say we took advantage; advantage of what? Could not one hundred and fifty men from Worcester have paid five dollars each and enrolled their names on the book of membership of the New England Society, from Worcester as well as Lowell? Was there any law against it? Would they not have been equally welcome? Has not the New England Society been inviting them for the last six years? We have neglected the opportunity until this year, but now we have availed ourselves of it. Repenting our neglect and omission of duty in the past, we atone for it now in part, by coming in a body to discharge it. Could not Worcester have done the same or more?

But we "sent down a hundred men from Lowell, to the meeting!" Now sir, we sent down nobody! A hundred of our hundred and sixty or seventy members, imbued with the spirit of desire to secure success for the New England Society, went to Boston and attended the annual meeting.

Could not Worcester have had as many members present, had the same feeling of interest existed? Is there any provision in the Constitution of the Society against all the members attending the annual meeting? is not the notice given to all? Published as Secretary Needham says, in one paper at least, in each of the New England States. Give it up gentlemen of Worcester. We did nothing but our duty and you neglected yours. Come to Lowell and attend the Fair in September, and we will extend a hearty welcome, and I think you will find that no mistake was made at the annual meeting in voting to locate the New England Fair of 1871 in the city of Lowell.

LOWELL.

RELATIVE VALUE OF FOOD.

In all countries, the subject of food has ever engaged the attention of political economists and statesmen. It is not only necessary to procure food, but cheap food for the poor. The relative value of different articles of food becomes therefore an important matter for the consideration of those who are in the posts of government or political economists. Some have an idea that when wheat flour is high in price, they cannot afford to eat much of it, and resort to potatoes. The poor, in particular, often live on potatoes, because they cannot afford to purchase flour. This is often a mistaken idea, and poor economy. To estimate the relative value of different articles of food, we must not only take into account the purchase price, but also the relative amount of nutriment in each.

Potatoes contain about seventy parts in a hundred of water—sometimes as high as eighty per cent.—so that only twenty or thirty per cent. is nutritious matter. Of this solid matter, only about one per cent. is glutin and albumen, almost all being starch. Wheat flour has only twelve or fourteen per cent. of water, and its gluten and albumen range from nine to thirteen per cent. so that while potatoes have but twenty per cent. of heat forming and nutritious principles, taken altogether, wheat flour supplies eighty per cent.

The relative value of wheat to potatoes is therefore four to one, or, if wheat is a dollar a bushel, potatoes to be of the proper relative value, should be twenty-five cents a bushel. A similar result will be arrived at, if we estimate their relative value in nitrogenized substances. A laboring man, in breathing, throws off twelve ounces of carbon daily. To supply this loss of carbon, he requires, in food, sixteen ounces of starch and sugar. If he eat wheat bread, he requires only one pound and three-fourths; if in the form of potatoes, it requires seven and a half pounds to supply the loss by breathing alone.

To supply the loss of nitrogen, if he live on bread alone, he would require four and a half pounds; if on potatoes, eighteen pounds. This would overload and cloy the stomach with starch or carbon, to get the required amount of nitrogen. One and three-fourths pounds of bread, and one pound of cheese, would furnish the same amount of nitrogen, without overloading the stomach with carbon.

So obvious is this principle, that Nature has taught it to the most unlettered inhabitants of the globe. In Aisau, on the Rhine, the peasantry, who cannot afford to eat meat, use sour milk with potatoes; the Irish peasantry use buttermilk with theirs; and the Indians of the Upper Alps eat what they call bores, a mixture of cheese and potatoes.

Potatoes alone, then, are not sufficient to sustain a laboring person; and to supply the requisite nitrogen and carbon, the stomach must necessarily be overloaded with foreign matter, the vitality clogged, and dyspepsia be the result.

As a matter of economy, people cannot afford to eat potatoes at present prices, ranging as they do in value per bushel, nearly equal to wheat. Wheat is now much the cheapest.—*Ohio Farmer.*

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE CURRENT OF TRADE is sure to flow to that house which sells at the lowest prices. Ten Thousand yards English Tapestries will be cut up for our customers at $1 12½ ₱ yard. Our customers will find our department for fine goods very complete, comprising the newest and most desirable styles of design as well as home manufacture.

JOHN J. PEASLEY & CO.,
feb11-3t* 47 Washington St., Boston.

AN EXCELLENT CARPET FOR LITTLE MONEY. — The rush for those Carpets at 37½ cents per yard, full yard wide, still continues at JOHN J. PEASLEY & CO.'S, 47 Washington Street, Boston. No one should lose the opportunity to secure a good carpet at a low price.

JOHN J. P

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.....BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

THE ANDREW STATUE.

The ceremonies attending the presentation of the statue of the late Governor Andrew took place in the Doric Hall at the State house Tuesday forenoon. The settees which had been placed on a platform at the rear of the hall were occupied by Governor Claflin and his staff, Lieut-Governor Tucker, the members of Governor Andrew's family, other members of the governor's council staff, present and past members of the state senate and the judiciary of the north on the floor of the hall was reserved for the members of both branches of the legislature, the executive were included in the assembly.

The exercises were opened by Hon. R. H. Coolidge, president of the senate, who spoke as follows:—

NAMES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, *Excellency, Senators and Representatives:* We have assembled today as representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to receive in her behalf from her wealth of Massachusetts, to receive in her behalf from her sons and patriotic sons the gift of a statue of her great war governor, and to place it beneath the dome of the capitol where his noble work was done, here in this Doric hall whose pavement echoed so often to the sound of his footsteps as he went forth to hail and bless the conquering sons of the state and of the nation now faded and gone before him, and to pledge the faith of the commonwealth that here it shall stand forever in memory of his deeds and of the love and veneration of a grateful people.

Gov. William Gray then delivered the following address:

Address by Hon. William Gray.

May it please Your Excellency, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker of the Legislature,

On the 30th day of October, in the year 1867, a private funeral procession moved from the late residence in Boston, which was regarded as a great public and private bereavement throughout the length and breadth of the land. Their hearts and their very feelings and the feelings of the whole community, and of the state of which he was the honored governor, were all in sympathy with the public and private grief in the city of Boston, and great numbers of private citizens from all parts of the state, and from other states, were in the procession of the high traits of character which he exhibited in the course of his life, and the unbounded confidence which he had reposed in him by the people of Massachusetts, and the universal interest of a people always in their own hearts, and always in their own affections, and which will establish the memory of the dead, and especially of a governor who has been so long and so intimately associated with the people of Massachusetts, and who has been so long

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE----BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

The Poet's Corner.

"A WOMAN'S ANSWER."

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the hand above?
A woman's heart and a woman's life—
And a woman's wonderful love?

Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dash of a boy!

You have written my lesson of duty out—
Man-like have you questioned me;
How stand at the bar of my woman's soul,
Until I shall question thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,
Your socks and your shirts be whole;
I require your heart to be true as God's stars,
And pure as His heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef,
I require a far greater thing;
A seamstress you're wanting for socks and for shirts,
I look for a man and king—

A king for the beautiful realm called home,
And a man that the Maker God
Shall look upon as he did on the first,
And say, "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose will fade
From my soft young cheek one day—
Will you love me then, 'mid the falling leaves,
As you did 'mid the blooms of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and deep
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds heaven or hell
On the day she becomes a bride.

Require all things that are grand and true,
All things that a man should be;
If you give this all, I would stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot be this—a laundress and cook
You can hire, and a little to pay;
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not to be won in that way.

Ladies' Department.

[From the London Sunday Magazine.]

Tom Joiner's "Good Angel."

The following narrative is told to the reader in nearly the same words as it was told to the writer by as fine a specimen of the British workman as ever stood in a workshop.

I couldn't even say my A B C when I came—could I, Mary?—and as to book learning, I was the only one in our shop not able to read the newspaper. I was almost ashamed to listen to them, and always kept out of sight when they were reading. At breakfast time they would all be sitting down on a heap of shavings and sawdust in one corner of the shop, reading and talking, while I would stay in the next room, pretending to work, but I stopped there not to work, but to *think*, but the only consolation I obtained was the knowledge of my ignorance. You might have seen me crouching behind the door, with my ear against the crevice, listening until I felt thoroughly ashamed of myself and my lack of education. But then, thought I, there is not a man in the workshop who can plane, or join, or chisel, or cut better than I can, and I do it without the aid of books,—so you see that although I envied them when they were reading, I hadn't the courage to take kindly to learning.

"No," I said, "if a man comes to be thirty years of age and knows his trade well, without having had any book learning, *he* is sure to get on in the world."

That was the way I put it to myself, and I believe that is the way with hundreds of others. Some say learning makes a man proud—not a bit of it; nor does it make him over ambitious. I'm quite content with my present situation, and do not intend putting myself very much out of the way to get rich faster, for I believe that they who run too swiftly soon lose all their breath.

What did I do with myself of an evening? Sometimes, when I could afford it, I went to the theatre, and sometimes to the music halls, and when I couldn't afford it, I only went to the nearest public house to drink five or six glasses of ale and smoke my pipe in company with a lot of others. My opinion of theatres is this. They may be innocent enough to those who can pay to go to the best part of the house, for all I know, or they may not, but I do know that I never received any good in the *gallery*, mixing with so many of all sorts, and I very often caught a severe cold coming from the almost suffocating heat into the pure, cold night air of the open street. I would never do for the stage, as in my trade to frequent theatres; he can't get up early the next morning, and, in consequence, he very often loses his situation.

I was going to tell you how I came to be foreman in the shop where I now work. I shall come to it presently. When I married Mary I didn't know 'B from a bull, as the saying is; and on the first week's wages she said, holding up a shilling, "I am going to put by a shilling every week to buy papers and books for you when you can read."

"That won't be for a long time to come," said I. "How long did it take you to learn?"

"Not a great while; about twelve months, I think."

"It seems to me, Mary, that's a long time. But why should I learn to read?" I asked, for I didn't like even Mary to know that I *wanted* to learn, and was too proud to commence.

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MRS. STOWE ON LOVE.

Many women suppose that they love their husbands, when, unfortunately they have not the beaming of an idea what love is. "Let me explain to you my dear lady. Loving to be admired by a man, loving to be petted by him, and loving to be caressed by him, loving to be praised by him, is not loving a man. All these may be when a woman has no power of loving at all; they may all be simply because she loves herself, and loves to be flattered, praised, caressed, coaxed, as a cat likes to be coaxed and stroked, and fed with cream and have a warm corner.

But all this is not love. It may exist, to be sure, where there is love; it generally does. But it may also exist where there is no love. Love, my dear ladies, is *self-sacrifice*: it is a life out of self and in another; its very essence is the preferring of the comfort, the ease, the wishes of another to one's own, for the love we bear them. Love is giving, not receiving. Love is not a shoe stepped into this place; it's through her that it can be comfortable in every shoe. Love is not a mirror to be looked in, a sponge, sucking in everything to itself. Love's motto has been dropped in this world as a chance gem of great price, by the loveliest, the fairest, the purest, the strongest of Lovers that ever trod this mortal earth, of whom it is recorded that he said:

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Now, in love, there are ten receivers to one giver. There are ten persons in this world who like to be loved, and love love, where there is one who knows how to love. That, oh, my dear ladies, is a nobler attainment than all your French, and music, and dancing. You may have this very power of it by smothering it under a load of early self-indulgence. By living just as you are all wanting to live—living to be petted, to be flattered, to be admired, to be praised, to have your own way, and to do only that which is easy and agreeable—you may lose the power of self-denial and self-sacrifice; you may lose the power of loving nobly and worthily, and become a mere sheet of blotting paper all your life.—*Old and New.*

FROM POLE TO POLE.

A merchant going home elevated, staggered against a telegraph pole. "Beg your pardon," said he; "I hope no offence. It's rather dark, and the street is narrow, you see."

In a few moments he came in contact with another pole. "Couldn't help it, Sir," said he, lifting his hat; "I never saw such crooked lanes as we have here in this city!"

Again he ran foul of a pole, this time with a force which sent him backward to the ground. "Look here, neighbor, you needn't push a fellow down because he happens to touch you; the road is as much mine as yours, and I have as much right to be here as you have, you old stick-in-the-mud!"

He picked himself up, and made another effort to reach his home, but he soon came plump against another pole. "I shall make any more apologies," said he; "if you will persist in standing in the middle of the street and staring in my way, that's your look out, and not mine."

Proceeding on his journey again, and becoming angry and dizzy, he seemed to be entangled in an inextricable labyrinth of telegraph poles, which led him to make a general speech. "Gentlemen, you are not doing the fair thing. You do not give me a chance. You run from one side of the street to the other, right in my way."

Just then he met a friend, and taking him by the hand, he said: "There is a procession going along the street, and every man is drunk; they have been running against me all the way from the club. I knocked one of the fellows down, and one of the fellows knocked me down, and then a lot of them got round me, and I believe they would have licked me within an inch of my life if you had not come to my rescue. Let us get out of this street before the procession comes back, for they are all drunk."

MUSIC.

BY MARY W. PRESCOTT.

There is no pause in the vast melody of Earth,
It never dies, but has perpetual birth.
It lives and breathes in sighs; slow falling tears;
Sad cries that through the sorrowing years,
Each leaf that drops makes some divine accord
In the eternal hymn of praise to God.
The solemn measure of the unfaltering stars,
The wild brook's laugh, the waterfall's burrahs;
The words of lovers loitering in the lane,
The sobs from hearts too heavy to complain.
The bugle tones of winds forever sighing,
The hollow voice of deep to deep replying—
Each lends an accent to the symphony
Which soars forever, Lord, from Thine to Thee!
—*Christian Union.*

TRUE IDEA OF MARRIAGE.

From Dr. Holcombe's new book, "The Sexes, Here and Hereafter."

The cause of all the woes in married and social life is that men and women are attracted to each other by external and sensual motives. Physical beauty is esteemed above spiritual beauty. External possessions are desired more than internal and heavenly treasures. Self governs all—the love of self and the world. When selfishness, vanity, and ambition are the evil genii which bring them together, which haunt in various disguises, like a blue, the domestic circle, how can we expect but misery and discord; diseases of mind and body; broken hearts; broken vows; the infernal marriage of the evil and the false in the individual soul, and the awful shadow of hell projected upon earth?

Let men and women learn that marriage is the most solemn event of life. Let a pure and holy ideal of marriage be planted in the youthful mind. Let the question of the heart be, not what it is to *gain*, but what it is to *give!* Let marriage be regarded as the chief means of regeneration, as the partner and co-worker with the Word in the salvation of the soul. Let it be the occasion of self examination, watching and prayers; then only will it become the little wicket gate which Pilgrim saw and which led to the Celestial Country! * * * When husband and wife are equally impressed with a sense of their obligations to the Lord and to each other; when they make the word of God their rule of life, and read it and pray over it; when the spiritual welfare of their children is the first and united moral aspiration of their hearts, we have a home of heavenly order, purity and peace, the ideal of Christian civilization and the hope of the world.

THE "NO" POWER.

The ability to say no in life is so valuable that it might be truly called the safe side of one's character. It is an almost sure sign of a strong mind and a sound heart. That queer clerical wit and editor, Sidney Smith, who could be sensible in spite of his fun, spreads the following very grave paragraph on the power of "no" in young men:

"The purity of moral habits is, I am afraid, of very little use to a man unless it is accompanied by that degree of firmness which enables him to act up to what he may think right in spite of solicitations to the contrary. Very few young men have the power of negation in any degree at first. It increases with the increase of confidence, and with the experience of those inconveniences which results from the absence of this virtue. Every young man must be exposed to temptation; he can never learn the ways of men without being witness to their vices. If you attempt to preserve him from danger by keeping him out of the way of it, you render him quite unfit for any style of life in which he may be placed. The great point is, not to turn him out too soon, and to give him a pilot at first."

LIVING BEYOND THEIR MEANS.

Bulwer says that poverty is only an idea in nine cases out of ten. Some men with $10,000 a year suffer more for want of means than others with $500. The reason is, the richer man has artificial wants. His income is $10,000 a year, and he suffers enough for being dunned for unpaid debts to kill a sensitive man. A man who earns a dollar a day and does not go in debt, is the happiest of the two. Very few people who have never been rich will believe this; but it is true. There are thousands and thousands with princely incomes who never know a minute's peace, because they live beyond their means. There is really more happiness among the working men in the world than among those who are called rich.

☞ In the artifices of "society," there is a certain artificial polish, a common-place rivacity, which, in the commerce of the world, supplies the place of a natural suavity and good humor, but is purchased at the expense of all original and sterling traits of character. By a kind of fashionable discipline, the eye is taught to brighten, the lip to smile, and the whole countenance to irradiate with the semblance of friendly welcome, while the bosom is unwarmed by a single spark of genuine kindness and good will.

RECOGNITION ON EARTH.—The following is suggestive of an evil which exists in certain city churches: A Boston minister says he once preached on "The Recognition of Friends in the Future," and was told after service by a hearer that it would be more to the point to preach about the recognition of friends here, as he had been in the church twenty years, and didn't know any of its members.

A BUSS DRIVER'S REVENGE.

A talkative Jehu in a New York omnibus line tells the following 'cute story:

"When I was a drivin' on the Knickerbocker," a line that ran some twenty years ago from South Ferry to Twenty-third street, "there was a middle aged man that used to ride reg'lar; all the fellows got to knowin' him. Well, he'd get in and hand up a ten dollar note,—you know the fare was only six cents then,—and we never had so much 'bout us, so, of course, he'd ride for nothin'; well, that fellow stuck me five mornin's straight, and I sort o' got tired of it, so on the six' day I went to the office and says to the Boss:

"'There's a man ridin' free on this line. All the fellows knows him; he gives 'em all a ten dollar note and they can't break it. He's rid with me these last five mornin's, an' I'm goin' for him to-day. I want ten dollars in pennies,—you know they were all big ones then,—an' they weighed some, I tell you. When I got down to Fourteenth street he hailed me. Then the fares used to pay when they got out. So he hands up his note; I looked at it—it was on the 'Dry Dock'—an' I hands him down the pennies. Well, how he did blow about it an' said how he wouldn't take 'em. Well, says I, then I'll keep it all. Well, he was the maddest fellow you ever seen; he was hoppin'!

"But he got out, an' some one inside hollers out, 'Put some one on the other side or you'll capsize' an' he thought it was me. He jumped on the sidewalk an' he called me everything he could lay his tongue to, an' I a laffin like blazes. Says he, 'I'll report you, you old thief,' an' I drove off. Well, I told the Boss, an' he says, 'Let him come, I'll talk to him,' but he never made no complaint there."

WANT OF TACT.

Arguing with an opponent who is lame, and assuring him that he had not a leg to stand on. Telling a man with only one eye (in an insinuating way) that you would like to get on his blind side. Urging a friend who stammers not to hesitate to express his opinion. Declaring to the possessor of a false set that you mean to do it in spite of his teeth. Informing an acquaintance, who never has his glass out of his eye, that you consider he takes a very short-sighted view of things. Telling a man who squints that you are sorry you cannot see the matter as he sees it.—*Punch.*

A BACKWOODS ADVENTURE.

A Virginia banker, who was the chairman of a noted infidel club, was once travelling through Kentucky, having with him bank bills to the amount of $25,000. When he came to a lonely forest, where robberies and murders were said to be frequent, he was soon lost, through taking the wrong road. The darkness of the night came quickly over him, and how to escape from the threatened danger, he knew not. In his alarm he suddenly espied in the distance a dim light, and, urging his horse onward, he at length came to a wretched looking cabin. He knocked; the door was opened by a woman who said her husband was out hunting, but would soon return, and she was sure he would cheerfully give him shelter for the night. The gentleman put up his horse and entered the cabin, but with feelings that can better be imagined than described. Here he was with a large sum of